

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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SUBJECT: JAMAICAN VIEWS ON MEXICO AND TRINIDAD ALUMINUM
SMELTERS

REF KINGSTON 4595

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM YEAR END ARTICLE IN
DAILY NEWS ENTITLED "1974 WAS BAUXITE YEAR". EMBASSY
CONSIDERS VIEWS OF AUTHOR, WHO IS WELL PLUGGED INTO
BAUXITE COMMISSION, TO BE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF GOJ
THINKING ON TRINIDAD AND MEXICAN SMELTERS

2. "THE AGREEMENTS FOR THE SMELTERS IN MEXICO AND
TRINIDAD FACE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS, WHICH INDICATE THE
DELICATE NATURE OF THE BAUXITE-ALUMINUM SITUATION. IN
MEXICO, THERE IS THE AVAILABLE POWER FOR SMELTING,
AND MACHINERY FOR THE SMELTER. BUT MORE IMPORTANTT, THERE
IS WITHIN MEXICO AND NEIGHBORING LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES,
A READY-MADE MARKET FOR 200,000 TONS OF ALUMINUM ANNUALLY.
THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT CAN WORK AGAINST THIS PROJECT

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3. THE TRINIDADIAN SMELTER IS IN A LESS FORTUNATE

SITUATION. WHILE THERE IS AVAILABLE FUEL IN TRINIDAD, AND ALUMINA FROM JAMAICA AND GUYANA, THERE IS YET TO BE FOUND AN ASSURED MARKET FOR THE PLANT'S OUTPUT. IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT AT THEIR RECENT PORT OF SPAIN MINI-SUMMIT THE THREE PRIME MINISTERS CONCERNED AGREED THAT MARKETING OF ALUMINUM WOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY BY THE THREE COUNTRIES.

4." THERE ARE FEARS THAT THE FAVORABLE NATURE OF THE WORLD ALUMINUM MARKET WILL CHANGE WITHIN THREE OR FOUR YEARS. THEREFORE WHILE THE MEXICAN PROJECT HAS A GUARANTEED MARKET, THE TRINIDADIAN SMELTER HAD TO GET LONG TO MEDIUM-TERM CONTRACTS FOR THE TAKE-OFF OF ALUMINUM. NOT VERY MANY COUNTRIES WILL EITHER WANT TO OR WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE SUCH AN UNDERTAKING."

GERARD

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